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Jazz Showcase

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Recommended Citation

University of Connecticut. Department of Music. Recitals and Concerts, "Jazz Showcase" (2013). *Concert Programs*. 32.
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In addition to teaching at UConn, August is a faculty member (since 2003) at the Bang on a Can Summer Music Institute at MASS MoCA in North Adams, Massachusetts.

EARL MACDONALD lives jazz, as a performer, composer and educator. His latest CD, "Re:Visions – Works for Jazz Orchestra" received a 2011 Canadian Juno Award nomination for "best traditional jazz album of the year" and has been praised consistently by jazz critics. In a review for AllAboutJazz.com, Dan Bilawsky stated, "*Re:Visions goes beyond where most big bands go, and establishes Earl MacDonald as a major force in the world of jazz composition.*" From this album, Earl's composition, "Bad Dream," was selected as the winner in the jazz song category of the 10th Annual Independent Music Awards.

Earl was the musical director, pianist, and arranger for the Maynard Ferguson Big Bop Nouveau Band from 1998 to 2000. As music director he was responsible for programming and rehearsing this world-renowned ensemble. In 2002, MacDonald won the Sammy Nestico Award, for outstanding big band arranging. Earl was selected as a finalist for 2007 Charlie Parker Jazz Composition Award during his affiliation with the BMI Jazz Composer's Workshop in New York City. He also appeared as an international finalist for the 2008 and 2011 ArtEZ Composition Contest in the Netherlands.

Currently Associate Professor and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Connecticut, the Winnipeg native earned a bachelor of music degree in jazz performance at McGill University and a master of music degree at Rutgers, where he apprenticed with Kenny Barron. Earl is dedicated to music education, participating as a clinician, guest conductor and teacher at summer camps, in addition to his teaching at the University of Connecticut. The UConn Chapter of the American Association of University Professors honored MacDonald with its 2006 Excellence Award for Teaching Innovation and 2003 Teaching Promise awards.

For his work as musical director / composer-in-residence of the Hartford Jazz Society's "New Directions Ensemble," MacDonald earned the votes of Hartford Advocate readers and won the distinction "best jazz group in Hartford" in the 2011 Grand Band Slam.



Monday, February 25th, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
von der Mehden Recital Hall

Jazz Showcase

We Love Wayne Shorter

Directors

Earl MacDonald

Gregg August

John Mastroianni

Combo #1:

Gregg August, *director*

Tom Lee – Trumpet
Colin Walters – saxophone
Andrew Wysen – piano
Lexi Bodick – string bass
Mike Allegue – drums

Infant Eyes
Pinocchio

by Wayne Shorter
by Wayne Shorter

Jazz Lab Band:

Colin Walters – alto sax 1
Charlie Salley – alto sax 2
Tommy Weeks – tenor sax 1
Jon Schmieding – tenor sax 2
Ian Jackson – bari sax
Anna Michaud – lead trumpet
Thomas Blackburn – associate lead trumpet
Emma Place – trumpet 3
Tyler Reese – trumpet 4
Shawn Rowther – trumpet 5
Ryan Curtin – trombone 1
Forrest Haller – trombone 2
Louis Nocera – trombone 3
Matt Della Camera – bass trombone
Andrew Wynsen – piano
Andrew Laflamme – guitar
Lexi Bodick – string bass
Steven Jack - drums

Almost Like Being in Love

Dancing Men

Lerner and Lowe
by Don Sebesky
John LaBarbera

Combo #2:

Gregg August, *director*

Matt Baum – saxophone
Kim-An Do – piano
Nick Trautmann – string bass
Steven Jack – drums

directors in the United States that “make a difference,” and in March 2004, Mastroianni was chosen by the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) as the Secondary School Teacher of the Year.

GREGG AUGUST, *bassist*, spans the jazz, Latin jazz, classical and avant-garde scenes. A sought-after composer and arranger, August has been an active member of the New York music scene for more than 10 years.

Originally a drummer, August began to study the bass while a percussion major at SUNY-Albany. Two years later, after transferring to the Eastman School of Music, he began studying jazz composition with renowned arranger Ray Wright and performance with pianist Bill Dobbins. After earning his bachelor’s degree, he promptly made the move to New York City, receiving his master’s degree from The Juilliard School, where he studied with legendary bass teacher Homer Mensch. Soon after graduation, August won the principal bass position with the Orquestra Ciutat de Barcelona in Spain, which he held for two years. After spending some time freelancing as a jazz bassist in Paris, August found himself hungry to return to the challenging New York scene. Upon arriving back in New York, armed with a wealth of experience in Spanish culture and language, August became inspired by Latin music. His interest then led him to Cuba and Brazil and to becoming a student of master Latin bass player Andy Gonzalez. It wasn’t long before he was touring and recording with Ray Barretto’s New World Spirit.

In 2003, August formed his own sextet, which has recorded two critically acclaimed albums: *Late August* (Iacuesa Records, 2005) and *One Peace* (Iacuesa Records, 2007), which was selected as one of the top 10 recordings of 2007 by Paul Blair of *Hot House* magazine. The sextet performs regularly in the New York City area. August was a recipient in 2009 of a Jerome Foundation/Jazz Gallery commission for a large ensemble, multimovement work, *Dialogues on Race*, based on poetry discussing race in America. The review of the premiere by the blog *Lucid Culture* raves, “August’s richly melodic, aptly relevant compositions created a program that screams out to be recorded.” In July 2007, the *Bang on a Can All-Stars* premiered his Cuban son-inspired composition “Oriente.” The *Boston Globe* review admires the way the piece “deftly contrasts languorous atmospheric writing with the kind of hard-driving and rhythmically charged music that the All-Stars eat for breakfast.”

August has played with Ray Barretto, Ornette Coleman, Paquito D’Rivera, Arturo O’Farrill, James Moody, the Chico O’Farrill Big Band, and Lincoln Center’s Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, among others. As a classical bassist he frequently performs with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, and the American Composer’s Orchestra. August is a member of the JD Allen Trio and assistant principal bass with the Brooklyn Philharmonic.

JOHN MASTROIANNI has performed as a professional musician since he was 15 years old. His talents as a saxophonist, woodwind doubler, composer, and arranger have led him to a diversity of musical experiences.

Mastroianni earned a bachelor of science degree in music education and a bachelor of music degree in jazz studies from the University of Bridgeport and a master of arts degree in jazz performance/composition from New York University. He has studied saxophone with Phil Woods, Dick Oatts, Joe Lovano, and Gary Klein, and composition with Jim McNeely, Bill Finegan, Tom Boras, and Neil Slater.

Mastroianni has performed, toured and recorded with artists such as Mel Lewis, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Smokey Robinson, Louie Bellson, Charli Persip and Supersound, Harvie Swartz, Jim McNeely, Jay Leonhart, Gerry Mulligan, Lew Anderson, Clint Holmes, Roger Kellaway, the Glenn Miller Band, Sonny Costanzo, Johnny Mathis, Aretha Franklin, Natalie Cole, Tony Bennett, Barry Manilow, Nick Brignola, the New England Jazz Ensemble, and many others! He also has performed with the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Norwalk and Hartford Symphonies, and at the Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun, Shubert, Palace, Goodspeed Opera House, and Oakdale theaters. Mastroianni also played in the orchestra for the Broadway (New York City) production of “Three Penny Opera.”

Mastroianni’s three recordings as a leader, entitled *Cookin’ on All Burners* (Stash), *The Time Being* (Jazz Alliance), and *Live at the Silvermine* (Jazzheads), have all earned him critical acclaim. He is also a featured soloist and composer/arranger on the New England Jazz Ensemble recordings, *Version 3.0* (Brownstone), *Storm Before the Calm* (Sea Breeze), and *A Cookin’ Christmas* (Sea Breeze). Mastroianni is currently a performer and recording artist for the Jazzheads label (New York City).

In addition to being a free-lance musician, Mastroianni performs with his own quartet and leads his own 16-piece jazz orchestra, for which he composes and arranges all the music. Mastroianni’s music has been performed and recorded by his quartet and jazz orchestra, the Sonny Costanzo Big Band, the John Allmark Jazz Orchestra, the New England Jazz Ensemble, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and many high school, college, and professional jazz ensembles throughout the United States. His big band charts are published by Walrus Music Publishing. Mastroianni has also written a piece for chamber orchestra and soprano saxophone which is published by Dorn Publications.

Mastroianni has taught at New York University, Albertus Magnus College, the University of Bridgeport, the New York State Summer School for the Arts, Bridgeport Central High School, and New Canaan High School. He is the director of bands at Hall High School in West Hartford and the founder and music director of the Young Artists Summer Jazz Workshop. In December 2002, Mastroianni was named by School Band & Orchestra magazine as one of 50

Adam's Apple
Footprints (in 5/4)

by Wayne Shorter
by Wayne Shorter

Combo #3:

John Mastroianni, director
Michael O’Callaghan - trumpet
Mike Marsters – trombone
Keith Chasin – piano
Nik Hutnik – string bass
Andy O’Sullivan – drums

Up Jumped Spring
Byrdlike

by Freddie Hubbard
by Freddie Hubbard

The UConn Jazz Ensemble

Earl MacDonald, *director*

Colin Walters – alto sax, clarinet
Emily Lavins – alto, tenor sax
Matt Baum – tenor sax
Ian Jackson – bari, tenor sax
David Dorfman – trumpet
Michael O’Callaghan – trumpet
Emma Reber - French horn
Mike Marsters – trombone 1
Ryan Curtin – trombone 2
Kim-An Do – piano

Nick Trautmann & Lexi Bodick – string bass
Mike Allegue – drum set

This semester the UConn Jazz Ensemble is preparing music from the 1959 Art Pepper recording "Art Pepper + Eleven". All of the arrangements were written by Marty Paich.

Donna Lee

by Charlie Parker

Walkin' Shoes

by Gerry Mulligan

Bernie's Tune

by Leiber-Stoller-Miller

